

The 2020 Leonard Lake Plan has Arrived!

See the Plan at <https://www.leonardlake.net/lake-plan-2-0>



How did we get here?

2005 - The Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association (LLSA) was incorporated.

2006 - A values and concerns survey was held for Leonard Lake property owners.

2008 The first Leonard Lake Plan based on survey results was approved by Lake property owners.

2018 - LLSA membership voted that a new Lake Plan was needed to respond to multiple changes - demographics of ownership, expanded development, lake vulnerabilities, aging buildings and septic systems and the need for increased stewardship and protection of the land and water.

2020 - A survey of all Leonard Lake property owners was held leading to the Lake Plan draft. See survey summary below.

LLSA 2020 Survey / Executive Summary

<p>What we enjoy (top 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relaxing Swimming Paddle Sports Reading Appreciating Nature Socializing Walking/Hiking Power Boating Motorized Water Sports 	<p>What contributes (top 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality (100%) Scenery (99%) Fish/Wildlife Habitat Lake Level Natural Shorelines 	<p>What detracts (top 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Light Pollution Large Wakes Nighttime Noise Daytime Noise
<p>Water Quality has gotten worse (66%) Less than 50% state water quality is "good" or "excellent"</p>		
<p>What we should do (top 3):</p> <p>Manage development - Protect water quality - Maintain septic systems</p>		

Full survey results can be found at <https://www.leonardlake.net/lake-plan-2-0>

The 2020 Leonard Lake Plan Preface

The adoption of a renewed Leonard Lake Plan (the Plan or Lake Plan) is designed to find common ground for the diversity of needs and interests that exist among those who have a stake in, and an impact on, the continued health of Leonard Lake (LL or the Lake). The Plan is a cornerstone to protect what we, in common, value. The vast majority of our community, above all else, value the preservation and improvement of the natural environment.

Although the District and all Muskoka Municipal Official Plans are designed to manage growth while protecting all Muskoka lakes, it is recognized by these levels of government that the general policy framework of an Official Plan (OP) may not be sufficient to respond to the character, extent of natural features and constraints, physical capabilities and carrying capacity of a given lake.

In various discussions between Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association (LLSA), the Township of Muskoka Lakes (TML) and the District Municipality of Muskoka (DMM) it was recommended by both the TML and DMM, that LLSA pursue the completion of a new Lake Plan that could address key Lake challenges. This document reflects the research and work undertaken by the LLSA and lake residents over the past several years in realizing this goal.

This completed Lake Plan reflects a two-fold purpose:

1. Actions that the LLSA will undertake related to goals outlined in the Plan, apart from land use planning regulations; and,
2. Land use planning policy recommendations specifically tailored to Leonard Lake that could potentially be included in the TML Official Plan, and where required, the TML Zoning By-law, thus enshrining protective measures in the context of land use planning rules for Leonard Lake.

While recognizing the rights and interests of property owners, the Lake Plan seeks to balance those rights with the imperative protection of the Lake and its watershed. These are not mutually exclusive ideals. Continued and improved health of the lake and surrounding lands and waters is essential to maintain and increase property values, and to protect the significant financial investment of Leonard Lake stakeholders

going forward.

The Leonard Lake Plan is organized into four major sections: "Introduction"; "Principles, Vision, Goals and Accountabilities"; "About Leonard Lake"; and lastly, "Leonard Lake and The Township of Muskoka Lakes Official Plan"

Although the Plan as a whole provides answers to key questions such as the purpose and process of getting here; lake strengths and vulnerabilities; and a detailed description of all major Lake aspects, two sub-sections in particular provide the rationale for the specific policies and context pertaining to Leonard Lake that will be presented to the Township of Muskoka Lakes for potential inclusion in the OP. These sub-sections, found in Section 3, include "Water Quality and the Relationship to Development Capacity" and "Development Potential and Capacity".

The specific land use policies that will be presented to TML subsequent to Leonard Lake property owner review and approval, can be found in sub-section 4.5. The Township as part of their current Official Plan review will consider the Leonard Lake Plan for adoption, in whole or in part, and as a part of the OP, will be subject to the Municipal process and Council approval.

It is hoped that our renewed Plan will provide the opportunity and the momentum for all people committed to the future of Leonard Lake to stand together in this endeavour. The Plan will have a direct impact on all Lake residents, both in terms of environmental protection and land use planning policies. Now is the time to act, to preserve both the value of investment by stakeholders in Leonard Lake waterfront and backlot properties, and the health and viability of our Lake for future generations.

See the complete Leonard Lake Plan at <https://www.leonardlake.net/lake-plan-2-0>

The Plan can be perused section by section, and we encourage you to take the time to read the full document and consider your response. This Plan will guide Leonard Lake land use policies for a number of years to come and it is important that the opinions of property owners are heard.

You will in all likelihood have questions and comments. We would love to hear from you, and of course a face to face talk would be best, but that is not possible this year. Over the next week we will set up some group zoom and telephone discussion dates and hope that you will join one of the calls.

Feedback or questions regarding the Lake Plan can be sent at any time to leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association

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